

Good Afternoon.

Let me start by giving my heartfelt thanks to the people of Illinois, for your overwhelming trust and support.

And I also want to thank my family: my daughter Rebecca's grandmother, Shirley, the woman formerly known as my mother, of course my loving father, and my delightful sisters and brother.

My brother-in-law, Father Mike, who joined us for the prayer service this morning, and my dear friend and mentor, Judge Joel Flaum.

I especially need to thank my terrific husband, Pat, who in addition to supporting my pursuits, is a wonderful father to our daughter.

When I speak to young lawyers, I always tell them to dig out their law school applications and re-read their essays about why they wanted to be lawyers.

Almost every one of them wrote that they wanted to help people.

I say this to them because I never want them to lose that ideal.

I haven't.

In fact, that desire in me only grows stronger - especially as I see the difference we can make when we reawaken those ideals and work together.

When I first ran for Attorney General, my motivation matched my law school essay – I wanted to help people.

Once I came to office, I was privileged to find that I was not alone in that ambition.

With a dedicated staff of true public servants, I am awed and emboldened by what we have been able to do for the people of Illinois.

In only our first four years, we reshaped the laws that protect our families from sex offenders, mandating lifetime supervision for the worst of them.

We've strengthened the sex offender registry, and we brought together law enforcement from around the state to hunt down those offenders who evade our laws.

We've stunted the spread of methamphetamine, and went all the way to the United States Supreme Court to fight for the tools we need to stop drug trafficking.

When everyone was betting that the Rosemont Casino was going to roll over the laws and integrity of this state, we called their bluff — and won.

And we did more than just talk about open government.

We created the office of Public Access Counselor to help everyone exercise their right to public information.

This is a right that people cherish.

In just two years, we've handled more than 2000 requests for assistance and provided more than 140 training sessions to educate government officials and their constituents on our sunshine laws.

But along with the work that grabs the headlines, we handle thousands and thousands of everyday cases.

They don't make the news – but they make an enormous difference in people's lives.

Take the people who call our identity theft hotline, looking for help in restoring their good names and credit.

In less than a year, more than 4,000 have called for help, and we've answered. We have helped to clear more than 2 million dollars in fraudulent charges from their records.

Then there are the health care patients who call us when their insurance companies refuse to cover needed treatment.

For thousands of them, we are the last resort.

Our mediators, doctors and lawyers insure that they get the care they need.

It is for the people we serve everyday that I am pleased to be standing here again.

And it is to all the people that I renew my pledge to help.

I know the opportunities will be many.

We see daily examples of unfairness and fraud, of scams that cheat the hard-working people of Illinois.

In our neighborhoods, a growing number of thieves are using mortgage fraud to literally steal people's houses out from under them. And with that, their life savings.

So we are using every tool we have – and creating new ones – to protect our neighbors from these scams.

Far too often, senior citizens and disabled adults are victimized – in nursing homes or their own homes.

We must be their advocates – fighting abuse and exposing neglect to protect our most vulnerable — and venerable — citizens.

And while the Internet opens the door to a new world of possibilities, it can also be a welcome mat – inviting predators into our homes to harm our children.

We are partnering with law enforcement and parents to slam the door on these predators and make the Internet safe for our children.

There are reminders everyday that we in the Attorney General's office have much to do.

And as public servants, we must not only help others, but set an example.

We've seen far too many people in government who are seeking only to help themselves.

I will continue to use my power to stand against them.

Ours is a government by the people, but if it is not for the people then it will surely lose the faith of the people.

As your lawyer, I cannot, and will not, allow that.

As your advocate, I will continue to fight for justice, and for the government, and the lives you deserve.

That's why I wanted to be a lawyer.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as yours.